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Meeting Report

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ASGO 2nd International Workshop on Gynecologic Oncology

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Asian Society of Gynecologic Oncology (ASGO) 2nd International Workshop on Gynecologic Oncology was held in Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, on September 28th, 2012. A total of 213 medical doctors and students from 11 countries (Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and the USA) participated in the meeting. In this workshop, there were a total of 23 presentations in 7 sessions including two sponsored seminars (Table 1).

The first session was an educational session which consisted of 3 lectures on the recent trends on gynecologic oncology. Dr. Konishi presented a multicenter study with ovarian cancer patients of which clinical information including transvaginal ultrasonography (TVS) finding of less than 12 months prior to the diagnosis of ovarian cancer was available. He concluded that approximately half of ovarian cancer develop secondarily from pre-existing, benign-appearing cysts or endometriotic cysts, whereas the remaining half, typically high-grade serous ovarian cancer, seem to develop suddenly from normal-appearing ovary. He also emphasized the limitation of screening programs using TVS. Dr. Aziz reviewed current understanding of neo-adjuvant chemotherapy (NAC) in advanced ovarian cancer and concluded that NAC prior to cytoreductive surgery was not superior to primary cytoreductive surgery, but effective in terms of less morbidity and shorter hospitalization. Dr. Devi gave a lecture on gestational trophoblastic disease (GTD) regarding diagnosis, prognostic scoring, and treatment for primary/relapse/refractory disease, placental site trophoblastic tumor, and choriocarcinoma. Notably, she underscored that a few women died from the GTD, mainly because of late presentation and drug resistance. She concluded that novel ap-

proaches with improved efficacy and reduced toxicity needed to be identified and national registries of GTD in Asia should be established.

The second session comprised two symposia on the malignancies with poor prognosis, cervical adenocarcinoma and uterine sarcomas. Three each of the lectures covered various aspects of the two cancers including pathology, imaging studies, and clinical management. Dr. Mikami presented his studies about cervical mucinous adenocarcinoma with gastric immunophenotype. He proposed a concept of gastric-type adenocarcinoma (GAS) of the cervix for this tumor with a distinct morphology. He stated that GAS showed unfavorable clinical outcomes because of its aggressive behavior compared with usual-type of endocervical adenocarcinoma. In addition, he mentioned that absence of human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA in this particular type of tumor indicated that GAS arises via HPV-unrelated pathway. Thus, he concluded that special considerations might be required for GAS in terms of carcinogenesis, prevention, early detection, and treatment strategy. Dr. Shiozawa presented a multicenter study for diagnostic criteria of minimal deviation adenocarcinoma (MDA) and lobular endocervical glandular hyperplasia (LEGH) of the cervix. He concluded that the combination of MRI, Pap smears, and gastric mucin test will improve the accuracy of the preoperative diagnosis of MDA and LEGH. Next, Dr. Young-Tak Kim pointed out current problems in diagnosis and treatment of cervical adenocarcinoma by comprehensive review of his studies. He showed that adenocarcinoma differed from squamous cell carcinoma in terms of epidemiology, etiology and prognosis. Cervical adenocarcinoma is an independent prognostic indicator of poor survival in patients with early stage cervical cancer with risk factors, regardless of the type of adjuvant radiotherapy after radical hysterectomy. He concluded that novel treatment strategies specifically tailored to early stage cervical adenocarcinoma were needed.

In uterine sarcoma symposium, Dr. Silverberg gave us a

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Table 1. Program of ASGO 2nd International Workshop on Gynecologic Oncology

Schedule	Speaker
Opening remarks	Toshiharu Kamura (President of ASGO, Japan) Soon-Beom Kang (Past President of ASGO, Korea) Shingo Fujii (President of IGCS, Japan)
Topic 1: Recent trends in gynecologic oncology	Chair: Seung-Cheol Kim (Korea), Noriyuki Inaba (Japan)
Toward understanding the natural history of ovarian cancer development: Is screening or early detection feasible?	Ikuo Konishi (Japan)
Neoadjuvant chemotherapy of ovarian cancer	Mohamad F. Aziz (Indonesia)
Current management of gestational trophoblastic disease	K. Uma Devi (India)
Topic 2: Round table discussion for malignancy with poor prognosis	
(1) Cervical adenocarcinoma	Chair: Hextan YS Ngan (Hong Kong), Tadashi Kimura (Japan)
Cervical adenocarcinoma of gastric-type: a new entity	Yoshiki Mikami (Japan)
Minimal deviation adenocarcinoma (MDA) and lobular endocervical hyperplasia (LEGH): differential diagnosis	Tanri Shiozawa (Japan)
Current management of cervical adenocarcinoma	Young-Tak Kim (Korea)
(2) Uterine sarcomas	Chair: Kung-Liahng Wang (Taiwan), Hiroshi Kobayashi (Japan)
Current topics on pathology in uterine sarcomas	Steven G. Silverberg (USA)
Does preoperative magnetic resonance imaging beneficial in uterine sarcoma?	Ting-Chang Chang (Taiwan)
Recent advances in management of uterine sarcomas	Tadao Takano (Japan)
Luncheon seminar: Prevention of cervical cancer in Asia	Chair: Kazunori Ochiai (Japan), Jo Kitawaki (Japan)
HPV vaccination in Asia: globalization of combat against cervical cancer	Sarikapan Wilailak (Thailand)
How to get national immunization program for human papillomavirus vaccination: sharing experience. The Japanese Expert Board for the Eradication of Cervical Cancer	Ryo Konno (Japan)
Topic 3: Translational research for ovarian cancer	Chair: Hee Sug Ryu (Korea), Hidetaka Katabuchi (Japan)
Histotype-specific genomic alterations in ovarian cancer	Liang Kee Goh (Singapore)
The prognostic and therapeutic potential of AMP-activated protein kinase in ovarian cancer	David W Chan (Hong Kong)
Immunotherapy for recurrent ovarian cancer, a new challenge of strategy	Junzo Hamanishi (Japan)
Biology of ovarian clear cell carcinoma: microarray analysis and bioinformatics	Noriomi Matsumura (Japan)
Topic 4: Updating gynecologic cancer surgery (Film session)	Chair: Yin Nin Chia (Singapore), Hideharu Kanzaki (Japan)
Abdominal radical trachelectomy	Tadayoshi Nagano (Japan)
What kinds of approaches are needed to obtain optimal residual tumor in the surgical management of advanced ovarian cancer?	Sang-Yoon Park (Korea)
Laparoscopic surgery for gynecological cancer	Kung-Liahng Wang (Taiwan)
Topic 5: Minimally invasive surgery for gynecologic cancer (Film session)	Chair: Duk-Soo Bae (Korea), Daisuke Aoki (Japan)
Robotic assisted staging of high risk endometrial cancer	John F. Boggess (USA)
Robotic radical hysterectomy for cervical cancer	Yoon-Soon Lee (Korea)
Fertility-sparing robotic assisted radical trachelectomy in early-stage cervical cancer	Young Tae Kim (Korea)
Evening seminar: Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for cervical cancer	Chair: Toru Sugiyama (Japan), Jyunzo Kigawa (Japan)
NAC followed by radical hysterectomy for cervical cancer: future perspective	Nobuhiro Takeshima (Japan)
Radical hysterectomy for locally advanced cancer: essential techniques	Masaki Mandai (Japan)
Closing remarks	Joo-Hyun Nam (President-Elect of ASGO) Ikuo Konishi (Congress President of the 3rd ASGO Meeting)

lecture about pathological diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma and endometrial stromal sarcoma. He pointed out the difficulties in their diagnosis. Dr. Chang presented how MRI can be used to diagnose uterine sarcomas. He showed the usefulness of diffusion-weighted MRI in differentiating between leiomyomas and malignant uterine tumors. Dr. Takano reviewed recent advances in the chemotherapeutic treatment against uterine sarcomas. He showed doxorubicin, ifosfamide, and gemcitabine plus docetaxel are the active agents against leiomyosarcoma. He also showed ifosfamide plus cisplatin, ifosfamide plus paclitaxel, and carboplatin plus paclitaxel are the active agents against uterine carcinosarcoma. Furthermore, bevacizumab and pazopanib are promising molecular-targeted agents against uterine sarcomas.

The third session was about translational research for ovarian cancer. Dr. Goh presented her research about histotype-specific copy number alterations in ovarian cancer. She reported several potential drivers, including ERBB2 in mucinous, BRAF in serous, and TPM3 in endometrioid histotypes. She concluded that identification of histotype-specific copy number alterations can pave the way for histotype-specific targeted drug therapy. Dr. Chan presented his research about AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) in ovarian cancer. Decreased AMPK activity was significantly correlated with the up-regulation of ERK/FOXO1 signaling cascade and advanced stage. He concluded that targeting AMPK by either pharmaceutical or natural AMPK activators could be considered as an alternative therapeutic regimen in the treatment of ovarian cancer. Dr. Hamanishi showed his research about tumor immunology in ovarian cancer. He showed that a novel classification of ovarian cancers could be established through the hierarchical clustering analysis based on tumor-infiltrating immune cells and immunological suppressors. He concluded that this result might support the application of Tailor-Made therapy based on the immune status of the patients. Dr. Matsumura presented the results of expression microarray analysis for ovarian clear cell carcinoma. He concluded that sorafenib might be effective in the treatment of this disease.

The following two sessions dealt with surgical films with expert lectures on updated gynecological cancer surgery including minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Tadayoshi Nagano presented a video about abdominal radical trachelectomy. He showed this technique might be feasible for women with early-stage cervical carcinoma who wanted to preserve their fertility. Dr. Wang presented a video about laparoscopic surgery for gynecological malignancies. Dr. Park presented a video

about cytoreductive surgery for advanced ovarian cancer. He argued that optimal cytoreduction could be achieved even in a case with extensive upper abdomen involvement. Dr. Boggess presented a video about robotic surgery for endometrial cancer, which included simple hysterectomy and retroperitoneal lymphadenectomy. Dr. Lee presented a video about robotic radical hysterectomy for cervical cancer. Dr. Young Tae Kim presented a video about robotic assisted radical trachelectomy in early-stage cervical cancer.

Between the sessions, two sponsored luncheon and evening seminars covered pertinent hot issues in the prevention and treatment of uterine cervical cancer, respectively. In the luncheon seminar, Dr. Wilailak from Thailand and Dr. Konno from Japan gave presentations on the recent movements of HPV vaccination in Asia. Dr. Wilailak presented current topics about HPV vaccination in Asia. She insisted that support from the government is necessary to increase the HPV vaccination rates. Dr. Konno presented how Japan pursued the vaccination program. He also presented the current problems in vaccination program in Japan. In the evening seminar, Dr. Takeshima and Dr. Mandai presented state of the art in the management of locally advanced cervical cancer. Dr. Takeshima presented the recent clinical trial that he conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of NAC followed by radical hysterectomy plus postoperative chemotherapy without radiotherapy for stage IB2-IIIB cervical cancer. He concluded that this treatment strategy would offer the advantage of minimizing radiation-induced morbidity, reserving radiotherapy for the possible pelvic recurrence. Dr. Mandai presented current problems in treating stage II B cervical cancer. He emphasized the utility of "super-radical" hysterectomy and showed a video of the surgery.

This workshop was successful with active discussions after every presentation. Unfortunately, Chinese doctors were not able to attend the workshop due to the political issue that Chinese and Japanese governments are facing. I hope that every member of the ASGO will intimately communicate with each other for promoting both academic and social achievements in the near future.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

Appendix. Affiliations of the speakers

- Mohamad Farid Aziz, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia
- John Fletcher Boggess, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA
- David W Chan, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, P. R. China
- Ting-Chang Chang, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital Linkou Medical Center, Taiwan
- K. Uma Devi, Department of Gynaecologic Oncology, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, India
- Liang Kee Goh, Cancer & Stem Cell Biology, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore
- Junzo Hamanishi, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan
- Young Tae Kim, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea
- Young-Tak Kim, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea
- Ikuro Konishi, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan
- Ryo Konno, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Jichi Medical University Saitama Medical Center, Saitama, Japan
- Yoon Soon Lee, Gynecologic Cancer Center, Kyungpook National University Medical Center, Daegu, Korea
- Masaki Mandai, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan
- Noriomi Matsumura, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan
- Yoshiki Mikami, Department of Diagnostic Pathology, Kyoto University Hospital, Kyoto, Japan
- Tadayoshi Nagano, The Tazuke Kofukai, Medical Research Institute, Kitano Hospital, Osaka, Japan
- Sang-Yoon Park, National Cancer Center, Goyang, Korea
- Tanri Shiozawa, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Shinshu University School of Medicine, Matsumoto, Japan
- Steven G. Silverberg, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, USA
- Tadao Takano, Clinical Research, Innovation, and Education Center, Tohoku University Hospital, Sendai, Japan
- Nobuhiro Takeshima, Department of Gynecology, Cancer Institute Hospital, Tokyo, Japan
- Kung-Liahng Wang, Mackay Memorial Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan
- Sarikapan Wilailak, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand